



Health Technology Assessment Policy and Methods Review Reference Committee

Communique – 2 February 2024 meeting

The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Policy and Methods Review (Review) Reference Committee (Committee) met by video conference on 2 February 2024. Representatives from Bastion Insights who are assisting with Consultation 2 and support staff from the Review Secretariat in the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) attended.

What did the Committee discuss?

Approach to Consultation

Representatives from Bastion Insights demonstrated the online consultation platform for Consultation 2 to the Committee. The Committee noted that its previous feedback regarding different elements of the questionnaire and platform had been resolved. The Committee agreed that the design would allow for meaningful insight, be flexible enough to cater to different stakeholders' needs and support timely feedback analysis.

The Committee received a briefing on the plan for the consultation workshops from a representative of Bastion Insights. The Committee discussed the specific activities and exercises designed to elicit stakeholder feedback on key matters and issues. The Committee provided feedback regarding additional key topics it would like to be covered in the workshops and how they could be incorporated into the planned activities. The Committee gave feedback on the proposed timing and location of the in-person workshop to ensure it could cater to a broad range of stakeholders. The Committee noted that the Review Secretariat must be present to support Bastion Insights with the workshops.

Planning for report structure

Noting that the outcomes of Consultation 2 would influence the report from the HTA Review, the Committee discussed key elements and features to be included in the structure for the report. This included clarifying the goal or objective for each recommendation and indicating which recommendations may be feasible in short, medium, or longer timeframes. The Committee discussed topic areas requiring additional briefing and Committee deliberation before the receipt of stakeholder input from Consultation 2. These topics included:

- Different types of cost-minimisation submissions
- The method for the selection of the comparator used in submissions
- Discounting the costs and benefits of health technologies.

The Committee further identified topic areas requiring further elaboration and nuance in the final report to adequately reflect their complexity including:

- State and territory/Commonwealth funding arrangements
- Managing uncertainty in submissions with high uncertainty in their evidence-base
- Submissions using cost-effectiveness analysis that does not meet the criteria of high-added therapeutic value in areas of high unmet clinical need
- The qualitative value framework.

The Committee noted that this list is preliminary and will be further developed through the stakeholder input from Consultation 2.

Other matters

The Committee discussed the need for additional meeting time or rescheduling of currently planned meetings, including the next scheduled meeting.

The Committee noted the imperative of receiving the stakeholder input from Consultation 2 on time to enable fulsome consideration of all feedback before the development of its report, due on 15 April 2024.

Meeting close, and next meeting

The Committee noted the next meeting is currently scheduled for 21 February 2024.